

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

JAMES RAY PALMER
1707 Cooper Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Registered Nurse License No. 470051

Respondent

Case No. 2013-45

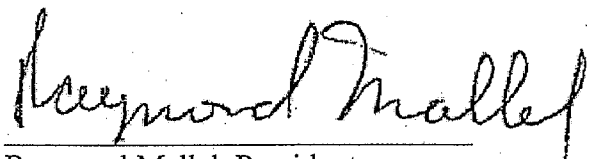
OAH No. 2012080244

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on **May 10, 2013.**

IT IS SO ORDERED **April 12, 2013.**



Raymond Malle, President
Board of Registered Nursing
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California

1 KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General of California
2 FRANK H. PACOE
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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Attorneys for Complainant

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8 **BEFORE THE**
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 2013-45

12 **JAMES RAY PALMER**
1707 Cooper Road
13 Sebastopol, CA 95472
Registered Nurse License No. 470051

OAH No. 2012080244
**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

14 Respondent.
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16 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
17 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

18 **PARTIES**

19 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of
20 Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in
21 this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Char Sachson,
22 Deputy Attorney General.

23 2. Respondent James Ray Palmer (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by
24 attorney Linda M. Leavitt, whose address is: PMB No. 312, 5214-F Diamond Heights Blvd.,
25 San Francisco, CA 94131.

26 3. On or about August 31, 1991, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered
27 Nurse License No. 470051 to Respondent. The Registered Nurse License was in full force and
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1 effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 2013-45 and will expire on
2 June 30, 2013, unless renewed.

3 JURISDICTION

4 4. Accusation No. 2013-45 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board),
5 Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation
6 and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on July 17,
7 2012. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

8 5. A copy of Accusation No. 2013-45 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein
9 by reference.

10 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

11 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
12 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2013-45. Respondent has also carefully read, fully
13 discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
14 Order.

15 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a
16 hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at
17 his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to
18 present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel
19 the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and
20 court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California
21 Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

22 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and
23 every right set forth above.

24 CULPABILITY

25 9. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation
26 No. 2013-45.

27 10. Respondent agrees that his Registered Nurse License is subject to discipline and he
28 agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

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DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 470051 issued to Respondent James Ray Palmer (Respondent) is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

Severability Clause. Each condition of probation contained herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

Criminal Court Orders: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

2. **Comply with the Board's Probation Program.** Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

3. **Report in Person.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.

4. **Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State.** Periods of residency or

1 practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this
2 probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when he resides outside of
3 California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of
4 residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or
5 returning to practice in this state.

6 Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where he has ever been licensed
7 as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further provide
8 information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the
9 term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if he applies for or obtains a new nursing
10 license during the term of probation.

11 5. **Submit Written Reports.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit
12 or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under
13 penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements
14 relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program.
15 Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the
16 Board or its representatives.

17 Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every
18 state and territory in which he has a registered nurse license.

19 6. **Function as a Registered Nurse.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall
20 engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24 hours per week for
21 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

22 For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered nursing"
23 may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any
24 non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

25 The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing
26 for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

27 If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and
28 Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of his good faith efforts to comply with this

1 condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an
2 extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to
3 comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation
4 shall apply.

5 **7. Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements.** Respondent shall obtain
6 prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment, paid or
7 voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all
8 performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request
9 of the Board.

10 Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to his employer and immediate
11 supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

12 In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two
13 (72) hours after he obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent
14 shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after he is terminated or separated,
15 regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full
16 explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

17 **8. Supervision.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding
18 Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any
19 employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient care.

20 Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse in good
21 standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods
22 of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are
23 approved.

24 Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the
25 following:

26 (a) Maximum - The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in
27 the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.

28 (b) Moderate - The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the patient

1 care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.

2 (c) Minimum - The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has person-to-
3 person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.

4 (d) Home Health Care - If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care
5 setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person
6 communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall
7 maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision
8 and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing
9 supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to
10 patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.

11 9. **Employment Limitations.** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry, in any
12 private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse,
13 or for an in-house nursing pool.

14 Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the
15 registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been approved by the
16 Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits
17 are required.

18 Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses.
19 The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses
20 and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

21 Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an
22 instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

23 Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined
24 worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

25 If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may
26 request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

27 10. **Complete a Nursing Course(s).** Respondent, at his own expense, shall enroll and
28 successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six

1 months prior to the end of his probationary term.

2 Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s).
3 Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the
4 above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after
5 photocopying them for its records.

6 11. **Cost Recovery.** Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with its
7 investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the
8 amount of \$5,480.00. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan
9 approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than three months prior to the end
10 of the probation term.

11 If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and
12 Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of his good faith efforts to comply with this
13 condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an
14 extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to
15 comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation
16 will apply.

17 12. **Violation of Probation.** If Respondent violates the conditions of his probation, the
18 Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order
19 and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of Respondent's license.

20 If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been
21 filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare
22 an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the probationary
23 period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has
24 been acted upon by the Board.

25 13. **License Surrender.** During Respondent's term of probation, if he ceases practicing
26 due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of probation,
27 Respondent may surrender his license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate
28 Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any

other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without further hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

(1) Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any reason other than a mental or physical illness; or

(2) One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness.

14. Physical Examination. Within 45 days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent, at his expense, shall have a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, who is approved by the Board before the assessment is performed, submit an assessment of the Respondent's physical condition and capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse. Such an assessment shall be submitted in a format acceptable to the Board. If medically determined, a recommended treatment program will be instituted and followed by the Respondent with the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant providing written reports to the Board on forms provided by the Board.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and Respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required until the Board has notified Respondent that a medical determination permits Respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day

1 requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until
2 notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this
3 probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant,
4 documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts
5 by Respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided.
6 Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted.

7 **15. Participate in Treatment/Rehabilitation Program for Chemical Dependence.**

8 Respondent, at his expense, shall successfully complete during the probationary period or shall
9 have successfully completed prior to commencement of probation a Board-approved
10 treatment/rehabilitation program of at least six months duration. As required, reports shall be
11 submitted by the program on forms provided by the Board. If Respondent has not completed a
12 Board-approved treatment/rehabilitation program prior to commencement of probation,
13 Respondent, within 45 days from the effective date of the decision, shall be enrolled in a program.
14 If a program is not successfully completed within the first nine months of probation, the Board
15 shall consider Respondent in violation of probation.

16 Based on Board recommendation, each week Respondent shall be required to attend at least
17 one, but no more than five 12-step recovery meetings or equivalent (e.g., Narcotics Anonymous,
18 Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.) and a nurse support group as approved and directed by the Board.
19 If a nurse support group is not available, an additional 12-step meeting or equivalent shall be
20 added. Respondent shall submit dated and signed documentation confirming such attendance to
21 the Board during the entire period of probation. Respondent shall continue with the recovery plan
22 recommended by the treatment/rehabilitation program or a licensed mental health examiner
23 and/or other ongoing recovery groups.

24 **16. Abstain from Use of Psychotropic (Mood-Altering) Drugs.** Respondent shall
25 completely abstain from the possession, injection or consumption by any route of all controlled
26 substances and all psychotropic (mood altering) drugs, including alcohol, except when the same
27 are ordered by a health care professional legally authorized to do so as part of documented
28 medical treatment. Respondent shall have sent to the Board, in writing and within fourteen (14)

1 days, by the prescribing health professional, a report identifying the medication, dosage, the date
2 the medication was prescribed, the Respondent's prognosis, the date the medication will no
3 longer be required, and the effect on the recovery plan, if appropriate.

4 Respondent shall identify for the Board a single physician, nurse practitioner or physician
5 assistant who shall be aware of Respondent's history of substance abuse and will coordinate and
6 monitor any prescriptions for Respondent for dangerous drugs, controlled substances or mood-
7 altering drugs. The coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant shall report
8 to the Board on a quarterly basis Respondent's compliance with this condition. If any substances
9 considered addictive have been prescribed, the report shall identify a program for the time limited
10 use of any such substances.

11 The Board may require the single coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician
12 assistant to be a specialist in addictive medicine, or to consult with a specialist in addictive
13 medicine.

14 17. **Submit to Tests and Samples.** Respondent, at his expense, shall participate in a
15 random, biological fluid testing or a drug screening program which the Board approves. The
16 length of time and frequency will be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent is responsible
17 for keeping the Board informed of Respondent's current telephone number at all times.
18 Respondent shall also ensure that messages may be left at the telephone number when he is not
19 available and ensure that reports are submitted directly by the testing agency to the Board, as
20 directed. Any confirmed positive finding shall be reported immediately to the Board by the
21 program and Respondent shall be considered in violation of probation.

22 In addition, Respondent, at any time during the period of probation, shall fully cooperate
23 with the Board or any of its representatives, and shall, when requested, submit to such tests and
24 samples as the Board or its representatives may require for the detection of alcohol, narcotics,
25 hypnotics, dangerous drugs, or other controlled substances.

26 If Respondent has a positive drug screen for any substance not legally authorized and not
27 reported to the coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, and the Board
28 files a petition to revoke probation or an accusation, the Board may suspend Respondent from

1 practice pending the final decision on the petition to revoke probation or the accusation. This
2 period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

3 If Respondent fails to participate in a random, biological fluid testing or drug screening
4 program within the specified time frame, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall
5 not resume practice until notified by the Board. After taking into account documented evidence
6 of mitigation, if the Board files a petition to revoke probation or an accusation, the Board may
7 suspend Respondent from practice pending the final decision on the petition to revoke probation
8 or the accusation. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary
9 time period.

10 18. **Mental Health Examination.** Respondent shall, within 45 days of the effective date
11 of this Decision, have a mental health examination including psychological testing as appropriate
12 to determine his capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse. The examination will be
13 performed by a psychiatrist, psychologist or other licensed mental health practitioner approved by
14 the Board. The examining mental health practitioner will submit a written report of that
15 assessment and recommendations to the Board. All costs are the responsibility of Respondent.
16 Recommendations for treatment, therapy or counseling made as a result of the mental health
17 examination will be instituted and followed by Respondent.

18 If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the
19 licensed mental health care practitioner making this determination shall immediately notify the
20 Board and Respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's
21 office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease
22 practice and may not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of
23 suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board
24 is required, until the Board has notified Respondent that a mental health determination permits
25 Respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this
26 probationary time period.

27 If Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day
28 requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until

1 notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this
2 probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant,
3 documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts
4 by Respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided.
5 Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted.

6 19. **Therapy or Counseling Program.** Respondent, at his expense, shall participate in
7 an on-going counseling program until such time as the Board releases him from this requirement
8 and only upon the recommendation of the counselor. Written progress reports from the counselor
9 will be required at various intervals.

10 ACCEPTANCE

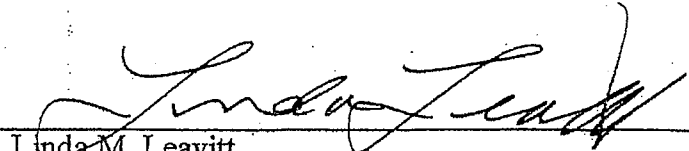
11 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
12 discussed it with my attorney, Linda M. Leavitt. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will
13 have on my Registered Nurse License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
14 Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order
15 of the Board of Registered Nursing.

16
17 DATED: 1-7-2013

18 
JAMES RAY PALMER
Respondent

19 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent James Ray Palmer the terms and
20 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
21 I approve its form and content.

22 DATED: 1/9/2013

23 
Linda M. Leavitt
Attorney for Respondent

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ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated: 1/9/13

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General of California
FRANK H. PACOE
Supervising Deputy Attorney General


CHAR SACHSON
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

SF2012401342
11014825.doc

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 2013-45

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2 FRANK H. PACOE
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Attorneys for Complainant

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8 **BEFORE THE**
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9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. **2013-45**
ACCUSATION

12 **JAMES RAY PALMER**
13 **1707 Cooper Road**
Sebastopol, CA 95472

14 **Registered Nurse License No. 470051**

15 Respondent.

16
17 Complainant alleges:

18 **PARTIES**

19 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her
20 official capacity as the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department
21 of Consumer Affairs.

22 2. On or about August 31, 1991, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered
23 Nurse License Number 470051 to James Ray Palmer (Respondent). The Registered Nurse
24 License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will
25 expire on June 30, 2013, unless renewed.

26 **JURISDICTION**

27 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board),
28 Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section

1 references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

2 4. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") provides, in pertinent
3 part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an
4 inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the
5 Nursing Practice Act.

6 5. Section 2761 of the Code states:

7 "The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an
8 application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

9 "(a) Unprofessional conduct, . . ."

10 6. Section 2762 of the Code states:

11 "In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this
12 chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this
13 chapter to do any of the following:

14 "(a) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or prescribe, or except as directed by a licensed
15 physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist administer to himself or herself, or furnish or
16 administer to another, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with
17 Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as
18 defined in Section 4022.

19 "(b) Use any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section
20 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in
21 Section 4022, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to
22 himself or herself, any other person, or the public or to the extent that such use impairs his or her
23 ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license.

24 "(c) Be convicted of a criminal offense involving the prescription, consumption, or
25 self-administration of any of the substances described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section,
26 or the possession of, or falsification of a record pertaining to, the substances described in
27 subdivision (a) of this section, in which event the record of the conviction is conclusive evidence
28 thereof.

1 "(d) Be committed or confined by a court of competent jurisdiction for intemperate use of
2 or addiction to the use of any of the substances described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this
3 section, in which event the court order of commitment or confinement is prima facie evidence of
4 such commitment or confinement.

5 "(e) Falsify, or make grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent, or unintelligible entries in any
6 hospital, patient, or other record pertaining to the substances described in subdivision (a) of this
7 section."

8 7. Section 2770.11 of the Code states:

9 "(a) Each registered nurse who requests participation in a diversion program shall agree to
10 cooperate with the rehabilitation program designed by the committee and approved by the
11 program manager. Any failure to comply with the provisions of rehabilitation program may
12 result in termination of the registered nurse's participation in a program. The name and license
13 number of a registered nurse who is terminated for any reason, other than successful completion,
14 shall be reported to the board's enforcement program.

15 "(b) If the program manager determines that a registered nurse, who is denied admission
16 into the program or terminated from the program, presents a threat to the public or his or her own
17 health and safety, the program manager shall report the name and license number, along with a
18 copy of all diversion records for that registered nurse, to the board's enforcement program. The
19 board may use any of the records it receives under this subdivision in any disciplinary
20 proceeding."

21 8. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license
22 shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the
23 licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license.

24 9. Section 118, subdivision (b), of the Code provides that the expiration of a license
25 shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period
26 within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.

27 10. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the
28 administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of

1 the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and
2 enforcement of the case.

3 DRUGS

4 11. Dilaudid is a brand of hydromorphone hydrochloride, a Schedule II controlled
5 substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11055(b) and a dangerous drug as
6 designated by Business and Professions Code section 4022, used for pain relief.

7 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

8 (ILLEGALLY OBTAIN OR POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES)

9 12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2762(a), in that while
10 on duty as a registered nurse at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital in Santa Rosa, California,
11 Respondent illegally obtained and/or possessed controlled substances as follows:

12 13. Patient A: On February 26, 2005, at 18:33, Respondent removed 4 mg of
13 hydromorphone from the hospital Pyxis¹ for Patient A. However, Patient A had been discharged
14 from the hospital at 18:15. Respondent admitted to taking the hydromorphone for his own use,
15 and that he had been using controlled substances intermittently since October, 2004. Respondent
16 was terminated from his position at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital.

17 SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

18 (ILLEGAL USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES)

19 14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code 2762(b), in that between
20 October, 2004 and February 26, 2005, at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital in Santa Rosa,
21 California, Respondent used hydromorphone, a controlled substance, to an extent or in a manner
22 dangerous or injurious to himself and/or others.

23 THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

24 (FALSIFY, OR MAKE GROSSLY INCORRECT, GROSSLY INCONSISTENT, OR 25 UNINTELLIGIBLE ENTRIES IN ANY PATIENT RECORD)

26 15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2762(e), in that while

27
28 ¹ Pyxis is the hospital's computerized medication supply system.

1 on duty as a registered nurse at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital in Santa Rosa, California,
2 Respondent falsified, made grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent, or unintelligible entries in
3 hospital and patient records, as alleged above in paragraph 13.

4 FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
5 (UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT)

6 16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2761(a) in that he acted
7 unprofessionally as alleged above in paragraphs 13, 14, and 15.

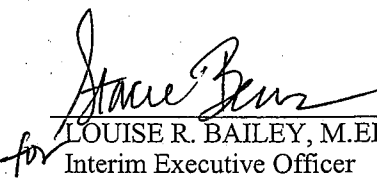
8 17. On or about March 22, 2011, Respondent was terminated from the Board's Diversion
9 Program for reasons other than successful completion of the program.

10 PRAYER

11 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
12 and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

- 13 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 470051, issued to James
14 Ray Palmer;
- 15 2. Ordering James Ray Palmer to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable
16 costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions
17 Code section 125.3;
- 18 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

19
20
21 DATED: July 17, 2012

for 
LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED., RN
Interim Executive Officer
Board of Registered Nursing
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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